

REMARKS

The Applicants respectfully request reconsideration in view of the amendment and the following remarks. The applicant has corrected an obvious clerical error with respect to claim 1.

Claims 1-8 are rejected under U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aimone et al. reference (US 2002/0112955) in view of Brown et al. patent (U.S. Patent No. 4,323,756). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

In accordance to the stated requirement pertaining to establishment of common ownership provisioned in MPEP § 706.02(I)(2), Applicants submit the following statement:

"Application 10/501,837 and Published Application US 2002/0112955 were both owned by H. C. Starck, Inc. at the time the invention of Application 10/501,837 was made, as evidenced in the Patent and Trademark Assignment System - Reel/Frame: 015695/0059 (for application 10/501,837)."

Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit that the aforementioned Aimone et al. reference (US 2002/0112955) does not qualify as a prior art reference for an obviousness rejection under 103(a). Therefore this rejection should be withdrawn.

Applicants believe no fee is due with this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 03-2775, under Order No. 13194-00160-US from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Dated: August 15, 2008

Respectfully submitted,

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